



APSA Condemns Hamas Terrorism

October 13, 2023

The American Psychoanalytic Association (APSA) condemns the barbaric murder, kidnapping, torture, and terror inflicted on civilian infants, children, and adults in the recent attacks in Israel by the Hamas terrorist organization. Antisemitism and all forms of prejudice are unacceptable.

Suggestions of equal fault, moral equivalency, and good people on both sides miss the point that these atrocities were not only aimed at the people that were brutally attacked, they were also aimed at destroying any hope for peace between the Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab peoples who want to find ways to live together in peace and prosperity.

As those who do psychoanalytic work, we understand how easy it is to hate and want to destroy. We also understand how powerful the wish for revenge is. However, we know that it is never acceptable to willfully attack or murder innocent infants, children, and civilians. We hope that our knowledge of how trauma gets transmitted from generation to generation, how groups can come to dehumanize other groups, and how people can avoid struggling with their badness by projecting it into others, might help promote a better understanding between people and help break the inevitable cycle of violence.

We hope that those who seek the destruction of peace will not succeed. We mourn those who were lost, we suffer for those who are wounded, and we call for the swift and safe return of all hostages to their families and loved ones. We hope innocent people, no matter where they are and no matter what they believe, will be spared. We hope for peace.

Sincerely,
Dan Prezant
President, The American Psychoanalytic Association